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P.H.

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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re application of:

Group Art Unit:

Poole

Examiner:

Serial No.: 09/818,470

Filed: 03/28/01

For: APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING
AND SEALING DUCT SECTIONS

RECEIVED

JAN 09 2002

GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Attached hereto is Form PTO-1449 listing documents believed relevant to the subject application. It is respectfully requested that these documents be considered by the examiner and an initialed copy of each form be returned to the undersigned.

This disclosure statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures § 609. If for some reason the examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be called so that any deficiencies can be remedied.

A copy of each document is enclosed.

Some of the documents may have markings thereon. No significance is meant to be attached to the markings.

These documents are not necessarily analogous art.

The relevance of each document will now be discussed.

Document AA (U.S. Patent No. 5,983,496) discusses circular and oval flanged rings for connecting ducting and method of making.

Document AB (U.S. Patent No. 2,635,931) discusses a rotary joint with fluid seal.

Document AC (U.S. Patent No. 5,135,270) discusses an apparatus for connecting the ends of

a pair of oval duct sections.

Document AD (U.S. Patent No. 5,378,028) discusses an apparatus for connecting oval duct sections.

Document AE (U.S. Patent No. 3,027,179) discusses a tube coupling structure having combined seal and retaining means.

Document AF (U.S. Patent No. 4,579,375) discusses sheet metal duct system having integral transverse flanges.

Document AG (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,937) discusses a mobile apparatus for placement of angle plates in transverse duct flanges.

Document AH (U.S. Patent No. 4,466,641) discusses a duct connecting system.

Document AI (G.B. Patent No. 690,062) discusses a flexible pipe coupling.

Document AJ (G.B. Patent No. 824,986) discusses a pipe end fitting.

Respectfully submitted,



David S. Thompson
Registered Patent Attorney,
Registration Number 37,954.

date: 12-19-01


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231,

on (date)

12-19-01

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